

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 11, 2005

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CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
THE MIRÓ QUARTET
SUNDAY, MARCH 20 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL
WITH SPECIAL GUEST PIANIST PEI-YAO WANG

"Phrase after phrase of sheer lyrical beauty" - *The New York Times*

BERKELEY February 11, 2005 – Playing with the joy of youth and the polish of maturity, the Miró Quartet, recognized as one of America's most exciting young chamber groups, makes its Cal Performances debut **Sunday, March 20 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall**. The program features special guest **Pei-Yao Wang** on piano joining Miró Quartet members **Daniel Ching** (violin), **John Largess** (viola) and **Joshua Gindele** (cello). The concert includes **Mozart's** Piano Quartet in E-flat major, **Walton's** Piano Quartet in D minor, and **Brahms' Piano Quartet** in G minor. The Miró Quartet's second violinist, Sandy Yamamoto, will not appear with the ensemble on this date due to illness. Performing on instruments built especially for them by French luthier Frank Ravatin, the Miró Quartet sounds "like one large string instrument with a seemingly endless variety of tone and huge depth" (*Strings*, May 2003).

MIRÓ QUARTET

Named for the imaginative Spanish surrealist Joan Miró who painted without pretense, the **Miró Quartet** approaches music similarly, "creating what's inside of you rather than elaborating on a form," Mr. Gindele explained. Since winning First Prize at the 1998 Banff International String Quartet Competition and the prestigious Naumburg Chamber Music Award in 2000, the Miró Quartet has captivated audiences around the world, dazzling listeners with its youthful intensity and mature interpretations. Formed in the fall of 1995, the Quartet met with immediate success, winning the First Prize at the 50th annual Coleman Chamber Music Competition in April 1996, and the following month taking both the First and Grand prizes at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. The most recent addition to this string of artistic acknowledgments is the Cleveland Quartet Award given to the Quartet in January 2005.

In 2003 the Quartet was appointed Faculty String Quartet at The University of Texas at Austin. The members of the Miró Quartet teach and coach chamber music there, while

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continuing their active international touring schedule of the world's most recognized concert venues including Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, the Kammermusiksaal der Philharmonie in Berlin, the Konzerthaus in Vienna, and at the Dresdner Musikfestspiele. Past seasons have taken the Quartet to Boston, New York City and Washington, D.C.; the 2004/05 season includes engagements in Montreal, Chicago, San Diego, and Berkeley. The Miró Quartet was Quartet-in-Residence at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Two and was named to the Distinctive Debut Series of Carnegie Hall, which provided for a Weill Recital Hall performance as well as debut appearances in Cologne, Stockholm, Brussels, London, Vienna, Amsterdam, and Athens. The ensemble made its Tokyo debut in 2001 in a concert benefiting the victims and families of the September 11th tragedy.

The Quartet has been heard on numerous national radio broadcasts, including those of National Public Radio's *Performance Today* and Minnesota Public Radio's *Saint Paul Sunday*. Internationally, the Miró has been featured on radio networks across Europe, Israel and Canada. The Quartet has also been seen on NBC's *Today Show*, ABC's *World News Tonight*, and on various programs of the Canadian Broadcasting Company. At the invitation of Isaac Stern, the Quartet performed in a live broadcast at the Jerusalem Music Center in Israel and was featured in the recent American Masters Documentary *Isaac Stern: Life's Virtuoso*.

The members of the Quartet maintain a strong dedication to the next generation of musicians and were on the faculty of the Hugh A. Glauser School of Music at Kent State University, where they taught private students and coached chamber music. The Miró Quartet has been the Resident String Quartet of Kent/Blossom Music - Kent State's annual summer chamber music festival, in cooperation with the Cleveland Orchestra. The Quartet members are collectively Artists-in-Residence at the Lake Tahoe Music Festival, its Academy now in its third summer. On short notice, the Quartet filled in for both Henry Meyer and Isaac Stern, leading master classes in Switzerland and Germany. In 2001, the Quartet teamed up with the Grand Canyon Music Festival and composer Brent Michael Davids to form the Native American Composers Apprentice Project, which teaches Native American students how to read and write music. The Miró Quartet also serves on the Advisory Council of Community MusicWorks of Providence, Rhode Island, an organization dedicated to enriching the lives of inner city youths and families through classical music.

The Quartet's unyielding commitment to contemporary music has led to the commission and performance of music by such composers as Leonardo Balada, Lee Hoiby, Brent Michael Davids, David Schober, and Jonathan Dawe.

The Quartet has released two recordings on the Bridge Records label, performing music by Rued Langgaard and George Crumb. Its performance of Crumb's *Black Angels* on the second Bridge CD has received international acclaim, including the French "Diapason d'Or" distinction. The Miró Quartet's latest recording, released in March 2004 on the Oxingale label, has also been welcomed with enthusiastic reviews. On the CD, titled *Epilogue*, Miró performs Mendelssohn's final string quartet (Op. 80), and Schubert's Quintet in C with celebrated cellist Matt Haimovitz.

DANIEL CHING

Daniel Ching, a founding member of the Miró Quartet, spent his childhood years in the San Francisco area, and began playing the violin under the guidance of his father at age three. At age five, he entered the San Francisco Conservatory Preparatory Division on a full 12 year scholarship, where he studied violin with Serban Rusu and Zaven Melikian, and chamber music with Susan Bates. It was during this time at age ten that Mr. Ching was first introduced to string quartets.

As a student at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music he studied violin with Kathleen Winkler, Roland and Almita Vamos, and conducting with Robert Spano and Peter Jaffe. He holds his M.M. from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with former Cleveland Quartet violinist Donald Weilerstein. He also studied recording engineering and production with Thomas Knab of Telarc, and subsequently engineered the Miró Quartet's first promotional disc. Mr. Ching is a discerning connoisseur of all things cinematic and electronic, is an avid skier and a dedicated reader of science fiction. He is married to Miró Quartet member Sandy Yamamoto and serves as Senior Lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin.

JOSHUA GINDELE

Joshua Gindele, a founding member of the Miró Quartet, began his cello studies at the age of three, playing a specially fitted viola. With the Miró Quartet, Mr. Gindele has won numerous international awards and has performed to rave reviews across three continents. He is

also the cellist of *Ménage*, a trio formed at the request of NPR. He has performed live with Country Music Legends, the Oak Ridge Boys, and has collaborated with director Chris M. to produce the contemporary film score to the movie, *Blackbox*. Mr. Gindele has been very active in children's education, teaching tennis to inner city kids, and has collaborated with Radio Station WQED and the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony on a special student outreach program. An excellent athlete, he has played tennis competitively and, since the theft of his road bike in New York City, considers himself a runner. He serves on a special advisory committee to the Austin Performing Arts Center and also serves as Senior Lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin.

He and his wife divide their time between a home in downtown Austin and their farm in central Missouri.

JOHN LARGESS

Violist **John Largess** began his studies in Boston at age 12 in the public schools, studying with Michael Zaretsky of the Boston Symphony, and later as a student of Michael Tree at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. In 1995, he graduated from Yale University and joined the Colorado String Quartet with whom he toured the United States and Canada as interim violist. The following year he was appointed principal violist of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra in South Carolina, a position he held until joining the Miró Quartet in 1997.

An active speaker and writer about all things chamber-musical, in 2004 Mr. Largess was invited to give a week-long audience lecture series as a part of the Eighth International String Quartet Competition at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Alberta, Canada; he will repeat this series in 2007.

With his training in Greek and Latin Literature and his Bachelor's degree in Archeology from Yale University, as well as studies in at the Hebrew University in Israel, he has participated in an excavation in Greece, Israel and Jordan. He serves as Senior Lecturer and Chair of Chamber Music at the University of Texas at Austin School of Music.

PEI-YAO WANG

Pianist **Pei-Yao Wang** is recognized as an accomplished soloist and chamber musician. Ms. Wang made her official orchestral debut with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra at age eight and has since performed as soloist with such orchestras as the Stamford Symphony, Orlando Symphony and the Taipei Philharmonic. She has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia, appearing at such venues as the Carnegie, Avery Fisher, Alice Tully, and Merkin Halls, and 92nd street Y in New York City, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Salle des Variétés in Monte-Carlo, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, and the National Concert Hall in Taipei, Taiwan.

As a chamber Musician, Ms. Wang has collaborated with members of the Guarneri, Orion, Chicago and Mendelssohn Quartets, and has performed with such distinguished artists as Claude Frank, David Shifrin and Mitsuko Uchida. She is regularly invited to perform at festivals such as Marlboro, Caramoor, Norfolk, La Jolla, Ravinia, as well as Bridgehampton in New York.

Pei-Yao Wang was born in Taipei, Taiwan where she began piano studies at age five. Three years later, she was the youngest pianist ever to appear in recital at the Taipei Cultural Center, receiving the overall First Prize in the Taiwan National Piano Competition. At age 12, she was invited to study at The Curtis Institute of Music, where she worked with Seymour Lipkin and Institute Director Gary Graffman. After graduation, she continued studies with Claude Frank at Yale University, where she received the Master of Music degree, and also pursued a concentration in architecture. Pei-Yao Wang is a member of Chamber Music Society Two, a program to promote emerging young artists. Currently, she resides in New York City where for several years she was the only student of Richard Goode.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Miró Quartet** on **Sunday, March 20 at 3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$38.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, March 20 at 3:00 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College Avenue, Berkeley

Chamber Music

Miró Quartet

Daniel Ching, violin

John Largess, viola

Joshua Gindele, cello

Pei-Yao Wang, piano

Program:

Mozart/Piano Quartet in E-flat major, K. 493

Walton/Piano Quartet in D minor (1921)

Brahms/Piano Quartet in G minor, Op. 25

Tickets: \$38.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.